

Application Number 09/729,034

Amendment responsive to Office Action mailed April 5, 2007

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (Canceled).

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A computer-implemented system for managing the risk or occurrence of surgical site infection incident to a surgical procedure, the computer-implemented system comprising software that:

identifies a plurality of stages of operative care associated with the surgical procedure, including at least a preoperative stage, an intraoperative stage and a postoperative stage;

identifies one or more points-of-care within each identified stage of operative care associated with the surgical procedure;

for each point-of-care associated with the surgical procedure, identifies one or a plurality of health care delivery practices associated with the surgical procedure that pose a source of measurable risk of surgical site infection, wherein the health care delivery practices associated with the surgical procedure that pose a source of measurable risk of surgical site infection are selectable for a given health care facility;

identifies one or more compliance indicators associated with the surgical procedure for the one or a plurality of health care delivery practices associated with the surgical procedure within each point-of-care associated with the surgical procedure whereby there is provided the ability to monitor the compliance indicators, wherein at least some of the compliance indicators quantify a measure of quality associated with delivery of corresponding health care delivery practices; and

for each of the compliance indicators, generates a flag when a given health care delivery practice associated with the surgical procedure is not in compliance with a rule to thereby align the health care delivery practices associated with the surgical procedure into rule compliance and to provide a perioperative process map of delivery practices spanning the plurality of stages of

Application Number 09/729,034

Amendment responsive to Office Action mailed April 5, 2007

operative care associated with the surgical procedure to thereby manage the risk or occurrence of surgical site infection incident to the surgical procedure.

Claim 13 (Currently amended): A system for managing the risk or occurrence of surgical site infection incident to a surgical procedure, the system comprising:

(a) a perioperative process map of practices for the delivery of the surgical procedure, the map comprising a plurality of health care delivery practices associated with the surgical procedure and one or more indicators of compliance with the one or more health care practices, wherein the health care delivery practices associated with the surgical procedure that pose a source of measurable risk of surgical site infection are selectable for a given health care facility, and wherein at least some of the compliance indicators quantify a measure of quality associated with delivery of corresponding health care practices; and

(b) means for monitoring the compliance indicators to achieve a desired level of management of the risk of surgical site infection for the surgical procedure, wherein the means for monitoring the compliance indicators generates a flag when a given health care practice associated with the surgical procedure is not in compliance with a rule to thereby manage the risk of surgical site infection incident to the surgical procedure.

Claim 14 (Original): The system of claim 13 further comprising means for recording the compliance indicators.

Claim 15 (Original): The system of claim 13 wherein the monitoring means comprises a software-encoded information management device.

Claim 16 (Original): The system of claim 13 wherein the monitoring means comprises a software-encoded information management device that is capable of operating across a network of computers.

Claim 17 (Original): The system of claim 15 wherein the information management device is delivered to one or more users via the internet.

Application Number 09/729,034

Amendment responsive to Office Action mailed April 5, 2007

Claim 18 (Original): The system of claim 13 further comprising means for monitoring one or more indicators of outcome.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): The system of claim 18 wherein the an-outcome is the rate of the incidence of surgical site infection.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): The system of claim 18 wherein the an-outcome is the patient satisfaction.

Claim 21 (Currently amended): The system of claim 18 wherein the an-outcome is cost.

Claim 22 (Currently amended): A computer-implemented method for managing risks of surgical site infection incident to a surgical procedure, the method comprising:

selecting for a given health care facility a plurality of health care delivery practices associated with the surgical procedure that pose a source of measurable risk of surgical site infection;

evaluating a given one of the practices associated with the surgical procedure that poses an infection risk during a stage of the surgical procedure;

storing data indicative of the given practice associated with the surgical procedure as executed by one or more persons involved with the surgical procedure; and

identifying via a compliance indicator when the data indicative of the given practice associated with the surgical procedure is not in compliance with a rule established for the given practice to thereby manage risks of surgical site infection incident to the surgical procedure, wherein the compliance indicator quantifies a measure of quality associated with delivery of the given practice.

Claim 23 (Currently amended): The method of claim 22, wherein identifying when the data indicative of the given practice is not in compliance with the rule comprises generating a flag for the data.

Application Number 09/729,034

Amendment responsive to Office Action mailed April 5, 2007

Claim 24 (Previously presented): The method of claim 23, further comprising prompting medical personnel to take further action when the flag is generated.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): The method of claim 24, further comprising clearing the flag when the further action is taken.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): The method of claim 22, further comprising generating a perioperative process map of a plurality of practices in a plurality of stages, the plurality of stages including at least a preoperative stage, an intraoperative stage, and a postoperative stage.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): The method of claim 26, further comprising for each stage of the perioperative process map:

evaluating practices that pose infection risks during the given stage of the surgical procedure;

storing data indicative of each of the practices as executed by one or more persons involved with the surgical procedure; and

identifying when the data indicative of any of the practices is not in compliance with a rule established for the given practice.

Claim 28 (Previously presented): The method of claim 27, wherein identifying when the data indicative of any of the practices is not in compliance with the rule established for the given practice comprises generating a flag for the data indicative of one of the practices not in compliance with the rule established for that practice.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): The method of claim 28, further comprising prompting medical personnel to take further action when the flag is generated.

Claim 30 (Previously presented): The method of claim 29, further comprising clearing the flag when the further action is taken.

Application Number 09/729,034

Amendment responsive to Office Action mailed April 5, 2007

Claim 31 (Previously presented): The method of claim 22, wherein the computer-implemented method is implemented in software.

Claim 32 (Previously presented): The method of claim 22, wherein the computer-implemented method is implemented in hardware.

Claim 33 (Previously presented): The method of claim 22, further comprising:
evaluating each of a plurality of practices associated with the surgical procedure that pose infection risks during the surgical procedure;
storing data indicative of each of the practices as executed by one or more persons involved with the surgical procedure; and
identifying when the data indicative of one or more of the practices associated with the surgical procedure is not in compliance with a respective rule established for a respective practice.

Claim 34 (New): The method of claim 22, further wherein the compliance indicator defines a value within a pre-established quality scale.

Claim 35 (New): The method of claim 34, wherein the quality scale ranges from 1 to 10.

Claim 36 (New): The method of claim 22, further comprising generating a report that represents a compilation of measurement data associated with the surgical procedure.

Application Number 09/729,034

Amendment responsive to Office Action mailed April 5, 2007

Claim 37 (New): A computer-implemented system for managing risks of surgical site infection incident to a surgical procedure, the system comprising:

means for selecting for a given health care facility a plurality of health care delivery practices associated with the surgical procedure that pose a source of measurable risk of surgical site infection;

means for evaluating a given one of the practices associated with the surgical procedure that poses an infection risk during a stage of the surgical procedure;

means for storing data indicative of the given practice associated with the surgical procedure as executed by one or more persons involved with the surgical procedure; and

means for identifying via a compliance indicator when the data indicative of the given practice associated with the surgical procedure is not in compliance with a rule established for the given practice to thereby manage risks of surgical site infection incident to the surgical procedure, wherein the compliance indicator quantifies a measure of quality associated with delivery of the given practice.